

NOW READY.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY

For 1884.

With its incorporated

THE CHINA DIRECTORY.

(TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL ISSUE).

ROYAL OCTAVO. PRICE 10/-.

SMALL EDITION. 6/-.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY

has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date, and is again much increased in size.

It contains DESCRIPTIVE and STATISTICAL

ACCOUNTS of, and DIRECTORIES for

HONGKONG—JAPAN—

Do. Litudes' Directory Nagasaki.

Do. Military Forces. Kobo (Hirogo).

Do. Chinese Houses. Osaka.

MACAO—CHINA—VOCABULARY.

Pak-hol.

Hokkaido.

Whampoa.

Canton.

Swatow.

Amy.

Takao.

Tamsui.

Keelung.

Fusow.

Tamsui.

Hankow.

Iehang.

Chinching.

Chesoo.

Taku.

Tsin-tien.

Peking.

Nanking.

Canton.

Kwangtung.

Kwangsi.

Kwangchow.

Shanghai.

Chiukiang.

Wuhai.

Kuangtung.

Kuangsi.

Kwangtung.

Kwangchow.

Kwangtung.

more zeal, more devotedness, to the duties of the Chairman of this Chamber than our friend, who I regret it say, is about to leave us. I think he has been indefatigable, and my only regret is that as Vice-Chairman he left nothing for me to do. I hope it will be very proper that this Chamber should express its hearty thanks to him for his services. (Applause).

The vote was carried by acclamation and with loud applause.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I can only say I feel highly flattered by the kind expressions used towards me by my friend Mr. Bottomley and my friend the Vice-Chairman. I have only done what I did, and tender the apology that being a teacher of navigation, &c., &c., I am allowed to speak freely upon a subject from which I derive my living.—Your obedient Servant,

CAPT. J. A. CLARKE
Star Hotel,
Hongkong, February 28th, 1884.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.)

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY AND THE LATE MR. DA COSTA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS." Sir,—The Catholic clergy seem to have had a shock at the news this morning of their correspondent's "Catholicism," but the very forcible logic in defense is observable in the article. His protestations as to his semi-clerical propensities were notoriously obvious. He says:—"Knowing the opinion in which Freemasonry is held by the Catholic Church, who would expect that the Catholic authorities would consent to a public discussion of the matter in their country?" So far as goes the question, the Ministry in question is the representative of the Catholic Church; but, otherwise, may I not say, in a sense, by what right the clergy can withhold the sanction of the burial in the cemetery given by the Government for the use of the Catholic community? The clergy, as heads of the religion, are, merely the custodians and nothing more, but acting as they have done, they have earned the right of the Government to have a say in their affairs. More flagrant not in itself, but certainly in its influence, is the conduct of individual priests and particularly in those belonging to Great Britain, whose religious influence is its motto all over the world. Therefore, sir, it was about time that the Hon. F. B. John referred to the matter in his speech in the Legislative Council, and the Government will be wise in having the question, once for all, properly decided, thereby relieve at least the liberal portion of the Catholic community from such a dreadful disgrace.

It is perhaps but right for your correspondent to be keeping with the raised instinct of his kind. "Birds of a feather flock together." I remain, Dear Sir, Yours very truly,

CHARITY.
Hongkong, 1st March, 1884.

BAROMETRICAL VERIFICATION OF HEIGHT OF VICTORIA PEAK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS." Sir,—Some time ago, that scientific research is interesting to all, and especially mind is eager to ascertain the truth of figures and documents, especially where heights of mountains or length of rivers are concerned; I therefore claim this a fitting opportunity to investigate the correctness of the height of Victoria Peak by the barometer. The data for the computation thereof are given in your valuable paper on the 25th of this month, appearing in the Government Astronomer's report. That the observations are superior to any hitherto attainable, and consequently are worthy of being worked out with full possible accuracy.

Of the many formulae for the resolution of the problem now in question, I consider there is one superior to that given in Professor Loomis' "Practical Barometry," a book which would be in the possession of every meteorologist. So said the late Rev. Robert Innes, R.S., V.P.R.A.S., Redditch Observatory at Oxford, in his "Admiralty Manual of Scientific Buoys." The formula is given by Professor Loomis on page 482, but is too long to give here. The tables were computed by the formula of Laplace, modified to correspond with the results of more recent observations. I may remark, however, that some separate tables are given in Chambers' Mathematical Tables, there is a concise table for calculating heights by the Barometer and Bolling-point Thermometer, and also "Weather Warnings for Watchers by the Clock and Bell." But it is not sufficiently extensive. The tables by Sir G. B. Airy are most excellent for aerial observations, and are in Moleworth's "Rock Book," but they are chiefly for the graduation of aerometers.

However, bearing pardon for this digression, I may call your attention to the report already alluded to, for the determination of the number of feet the noted Peak rises above the Bay of Hongkong. In the first place the astronomer states:—"The Barometer is placed 110 feet above the mean sea level, as determined by the Officers of the Surveyor-General's Department. The barometric observations are about 100 feet above the mean level." As regards for the other part of the data we find:—"The mean height of the Barometer at the Observatory is 1,293 feet above the sea level." "The mean height of the Peak is 2,530 feet." "The mean temperature during the month was 63° at the Observatory, and 55° at Victoria Peak." Of course, we take it to be degrees of Fahrenheit, if not otherwise expressed.

Now, for the subsequent computation for the height of the Peak, I leave out the minor calculations, as they will show the principal point, for those who are desirous of following out the working of this interesting problem.

Consequently, a book which would be in the possession of every meteorologist, is it not however, to exceed, in justice to those gentlemen who previously determined the height, that the observations used in this question are not the ones most to be desired; for it is a rule that the barometric readings should be shortly before or after sunset, on account of the great variation in the reading of the barometer.

To make this article more useful as well as interesting, I will append the position of the Peak, as determined by myself per innans, and mean altitude taken in the Star Hotel, Queen's Road, I may state, that the position deduced from my observations are entirely independent of chronometer, or any determinations arrived at by previous observers, this is particularly so, as the mean altitude readings should be shortly before or after sunset, on account of the great variation in the reading of the barometer.

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EXTRACTS.

A BALLED OF DREAMLAND.
I bid my heart in a boat of roses,
Out of the sun's way, hidden sport;
I am softer than the soft white snow's in,
Under the roses I bid my heart.

Why should it sleep now? "Why should it sleep?"
When never a host of roses two stirred?

What made sleep fitter his wings and part?
Only the song of a secret bird.

Lo! still, I said, for the wind's wing closes;

And mild leaves wave the keen star's dart;

Lo! still, for the wind of the waxen tones,

And the wind is wailer yet that they art;

Does thought still stir in a thorn's wonderland?

Does the fang still stin' the love of dolor?

What bids the life of thy sleep depart?

Only the song of a secret bird.

Lo! still, I said, for the wind's wing closes;

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Only the song of a secret bird.

ERVOY.

In the world of dreams I have chosen my part.

To sleep for a season and have no word

Of true love's truth or of light love's art,

Only the song of a secret bird.

THE DEAD SEA.

The well-known writer Gregorovius has just published, in the January number of "Der Zeit," under the title, "A Ride to the Dead Sea," an interesting sketch of the famous lake. He substantially confirms all the apparentances of the landscape and some other minor particulars. He declares that no Sodom bay nor the Gulf of Corinth presents more varied or beautiful colouring, only the water seems darker, as if of molten metal. He denies the general statement that no bird flies over its waters, and that its shores are without vegetation. But he confirms the tradition that no living thing is found in it, fish coming down by the Jordan do at once come within its bounds. The water is so "thick" that he moved in it with difficulty; its bitterness was terrible, the bottom was slippery like soap, and one can scoop up with the hand a slime like mortar. The touch of it causes great smart to the eyes. While the temperature of the atmosphere was 63° DeG., Fahrenheit, that of the water in the Dead Sea was 64°. On coming out of it the body was thickly incrusted with crystals of salts of magnesia and soda.

"DEAR FATHER, COME HOME."

Mrs. Slydell always does her Christmas shopping a few weeks ahead of time, in order, as she says, to get the pick of the things.

This year she purchased for the children, among other things, a doll which, when squeezed, sang "Dear Father, Dear Father, Come Home." The night before last Deacon Slydell came home pretty late and just a trifle uneasy about the legs. When he went to wrestle with his boots he sat on the doll, which jumped up at him and was shot off. He turned it at last and slept until Mrs. S. stopped on his face, getting out of bed in the morning, and woke him. That good lady showed him the wonderful doll, and the mystery was explained. The Deacon says it is a mighty good thing that all the girls don't make such a rumpus when they're squeezed. This he said to a bachelorette.

"A CAUTIOUS TOWN."

A Nebraska lady who was on a train from Omaha the other day fell into conversation with a New Yorker, and finally admitted that he was in pursuit of a broker—a broker—for what? "Oh, one of our smart towns was getting ahead so fast that it must needs send to Chicago for a broker. I wanted him bad, and he came. He opened an office, put in a tickler, displayed quotations, and made about 20,000 dollars in six weeks." "How?" "Well, that's what they want him the second time for—they want to ask him how." Has it affected the voice come from, but in vain. His wife had been up in bed fast asleep and there was nothing under the bed but what should be there. "Thunder and blazes!" cried the astonished Deacon. "I've got 'em this time, sure!" He turned it at last and slept until Mrs. S. stopped on his face, getting out of bed in the morning, and woke him. That good lady showed him the wonderful doll, and the mystery was explained. The Deacon says it is a mighty good thing that all the girls don't make such a rumpus when they're squeezed. This he said to a bachelorette.

"DEVONSHIRE CHARACTERISTICS."

Since human perversity is infinite, there may be those who, having seen Dartmoor, go about to disparage it. The only answer that shall be made to this sort is a story from Twyford. There is (says a writer in the January number of the *English Illustrated Magazine*) an ancient feed, half serious, half jocular, between Twyford and the parts round about. It is said that a carrier of Twyford was found on the moor by some Okehampton men struggling with a flooded stream, and that their comment on recognising him was, "Let me go, 'tis only a Twyford man." It is a fact that a horse-dealer has been known to abate a seller's price by some pounds with the remark that the pony would be a good one but for having "Twyford legs." In this usage of the name the first syllable is pronounced with a contemptuous emphasis. Now Twyford has nothing visibly contemptible about it, being a town of fair size, of convenient habitation, of ancient good fame, the birthplace of Sir Francis Drake and other worthies—including "many Peeks," who, though a prisoner at "Sherries in Spain," fought and beat single-handed, with quarter-staff, three Spaniards with rapier and dagger—and to this day a dwelling place of sufficient men. A certain man of Twyford was asked if he could account for the general disarray affected by neighbours from Okehampton to Plymouth. His answer was concise and complete, and for my part I shall take it to extend to whatever has been or may be said to the prejudice of Dartmoor: "They'm jealous."

"POISONING AT A PAIRS DISPENSARY."

Another deplorable case of poisoning owing to the ignorance of the staff employed at the municipal dispensary is recorded. A few days ago Madam Liron, the wife of a guardian-in-charge, took her little child, two months old, to the dispensary, and received a prescription from the doctor on duty. Madam Liron received a small packet of six powders, with instructions to give the child one every two hours. No sooner had the mother given the first powder, than the child was seized with violent pain, and expired in a few minutes. A doctor was called in at once, who conjectured that the child had been poisoned. The body of the child was carried to the Morgue, Doctor Tholmire, Philipeau, no Lownden confirming the cause of death. This is not the only case which has occurred since the Sister of Charity have been turned out of the hospital, and the officials will not tell the trouble to explain how the prescriptions are to be used.—*Paris Correspondent.*

THE CHRISTMAS CARD NUISANCE.

The Christmas card curse is even greater in Germany than here. In Berlin a society has been promoted to protect society from the nuisance. The members pledge themselves to send no complimentary cards, and to put away sum of money equal to that which they would have expended on the stationery. This is given to the poor in an anonymous way. Deserving people are sought out quietly, and the money sent anonymously to them.—*Country Gentleman.*

A CONSIDERATE HUSBAND.

Did your husband consider that he was going for die?" inquired an Austin coloured person of a recently deceased widow of the same dusky complexion. "Did he consider that he was going for die?" Well, I should say he did. He was for most considerate husband I ever had. Do right he passed away I was done out, but he came. He opened an office, put in a tickler, displayed quotations, and made about 20,000 dollars in six weeks." "How?" "Well, that's what they want him the second time for—they want to ask him how." Has it affected the voice come from, but in vain. His wife had been up in bed fast asleep and there was nothing under the bed but what should be there. "Thunder and blazes!" cried the astonished Deacon. "I've got 'em this time, sure!" He turned it at last and slept until Mrs. S. stopped on his face, getting out of bed in the morning, and woke him. That good lady showed him the wonderful doll, and the mystery was explained. The Deacon says it is a mighty good thing that all the girls don't make such a rumpus when they're squeezed. This he said to a bachelorette.

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REMARKABLE ANTIQUARIAN DISCOVERIES.

A German engineer named Humann, has been as fortunate as to discover, on the banks of the Upper Euphrates, a colossal monument of the pre-Assyrian period, representing a lion hunt. He purchased it from the village Cadi; but, as it weighed three thousand pounds, there were no means of transporting it over the mountains. He therefore had to cut it in two, leaving the part bearing the relief entire, and it will no doubt soon be on view in the Museum at Berlin. A very different antiquarian discovery turns out in a very different place—nothing more or less than a pair of knitted socks, 2,000 years old, in an Egyptian tomb! They are made of fine, keen's wool, and are rather loosely knit. Instead of ending in one piece, like our articles of the kind, they are finished off in two portions, something like gloves. This is to allow the strap of the sandal to pass between, and fasten on the middle of the foot. Altogether, they seem to show that the Egyptian ladies were good knitters.

AN AUTHOR WHO DIES NOT BELIEVE IN HIMSELF.

There is a good story told about Sir Walter Scott that one day in company someone quoted with much feeling and emphasis a few lines of poetry. The "Wizard of the North" was much struck by them, advised them very much, inquired of the author—the author, and—his great astonishment, was informed that they were his own. A similar anecdote can now be related of the great poet of the Fleisch school, Mr. Algernon Charles Swinburne, a day or two ago wrote in fiery indignation to a contemporary disclaiming all knowledge of the authorship of some lines entitled "Dolorida," which had appeared in a Christmas annual published under the name of "Waltungs and Wine." Mr. Swinburne desired it to be known that the "annual and the editor, the contributor and the contributor were alike unknown" to his high mightiness. The next day Mr. Augustus Moore, the editor of the annual in question, wrote to say that it was not his fault if Mr. Swinburne failed to recognise his own inimitable style. He had copied the lines out of a young lady's album in which they appeared written in Mr. A. G. Swinburne's "own unforgivable handwriting." The young lady in question was as proud of Mr. S.'s friendship as he was of hers!

A PIUS PRACTICE.

If it be true that old George III. took such an interest in the welfare of those condemned to die upon the gallows as he is represented to have done in an anecdote which was at one time freely circulated, his time must have been pretty well occupied by devotional exercises. The anecdote in question, albeit highly honourable to his sense of publicity, is mentioned on the authority of Stevenson, the American envoy in London. Some extraordinary occurrence having called a French statesman to the palace, late at two o'clock in the morning, he found the king in his cabinet, examining the case of a prisoner condemned to execution. The envoy afterwards ascertained that the king kept a register recording the name of every person capitally condemned, the sentence, and its reasons. Frequently, in the still hours of the night, he practised the task of investigating those cases, and adds to the record the circumstances which had influenced his decision. The envoy probably did not know that the great and good George III. had pursued nearly the anti-slavery path five years before, with the evidence with the deepest anxiety, and generally shut himself up in his cabinet at Windsor (it was presumed, in prayer) during the hours appointed for the execution in London—*Old and New London.*

THE HOT-WATER CUBE.

The hot-water cure is attracting as much attention as if it was something entirely new, whereas it has been in common practice at hydropathic establishments for years. If a patient professed himself unable to take his meals without a salutary of some sort, he was allowed to sip a little hot water with his food, as hot as could be borne. The water, however, should be poured into a cup, not glass; for if hot enough to be of use, it will break the glass, and should be sipped through a spoon.

LONGEVITY OF MEDICAL MEN.

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"DEAR FATHER, COME HOME."

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"A CAUTIOUS TOWN."

A Nebraska lady who was on a train from Omaha the other day fell into conversation with a New Yorker, and finally admitted that he was in pursuit of a broker—a broker—for what? "Oh, one of our smart towns was getting ahead so fast that it must needs send to Chicago for a broker. I wanted him bad, and he came. He opened an office, put in a tickler, displayed quotations, and made about 20,000 dollars in six weeks."

"DEVONSHIRE CHARACTERISTICS."

Since human perversity is infinite, there may be those who, having seen Dartmoor, go about to disparage it. The only answer that shall be made to this sort is a story from Twyford. There is (says a writer in the January number of the *English Illustrated Magazine*) an ancient feed, half serious, half jocular, between Twyford and the parts round about. It is said that a carrier of Twyford was found on the moor by some Okehampton men struggling with a flooded stream, and that their comment on recognising him was, "Let me go, 'tis only a Twyford man." It is a fact that a horse-dealer has been known to abate a seller's price by some pounds with the remark that the pony would be a good one but for having "Twyford legs." In this usage of the name the first syllable is pronounced with a contemptuous emphasis. Now Twyford has nothing visibly contemptible about it, being a town of fair size, of convenient habitation, of ancient good fame, the birthplace of Sir Francis Drake and other worthies—including "many Peeks," who, though a prisoner at "Sherries in Spain," fought and beat single-handed, with quarter-staff, three Spaniards with rapier and dagger—and to this day a dwelling place of sufficient men. A certain man of Twyford was asked if he could account for the general disarray affected by neighbours from Okehampton to Plymouth. His answer was concise and complete, and for my part I shall take it to extend to whatever has been or may be said to the prejudice of Dartmoor: "They're jealous."

"POISONING AT A PAIRS DISPENSARY."

Another deplorable case of poisoning owing to the ignorance of the staff employed at the municipal dispensary is recorded. A few days ago Madam Liron, the wife of a guardian-in-charge, took her little child, two months old, to the dispensary, and received a prescription from the doctor on duty.

Madam Liron received a small packet of six powders, with instructions to give the child one every two hours. No sooner had the mother given the first powder, than the child was seized with violent pain, and expired in a few minutes. A doctor was called in at once, who conjectured that the child had been poisoned. The body of the child was carried to the Morgue, Doctor Tholmire, Philipeau, no Lownden confirming the cause of death. This is not the only case which has occurred since the Sister of Charity have been turned out of the hospital, and the officials will not tell the trouble to explain how the prescriptions are to be used.—*Paris Correspondent.*

"REMARKABLE ANTIQUARIAN DISCOVERIES."

A German engineer named Humann, has been as fortunate as to discover, on the banks of the Upper Euphrates, a colossal monument of the pre-Assyrian period, representing a lion hunt. He purchased it from the village Cadi; but, as it weighed three thousand pounds, there were no means of transporting it over the mountains. He therefore had to cut it in two, leaving the part bearing the relief entire, and it will no doubt soon be on view in the Museum at Berlin. A very different antiquarian discovery turns out in a very different place—nothing more or less than a pair of knitted socks, 2,000 years old, in an Egyptian tomb! They are made of fine, keen's wool, and are rather loosely knit. Instead of ending in one piece, like our articles of the kind, they are finished off in two portions, something like gloves. This is to allow the strap of the sandal to pass between, and fasten on the middle of the foot. Altogether, they seem to show that the Egyptian ladies were good knitters.

AN AUTHOR WHO DIES NOT BELIEVE IN HIMSELF.

There is a good story told about Sir Walter Scott that one day in company someone quoted with much feeling and emphasis a few lines of poetry. The "Wizard of the North" was much struck by them, advised them very much, inquired of the author—the author, and—his great astonishment, was informed that they were his own. A similar anecdote can now be related of the great poet of the Fleisch school, Mr. Algernon Charles Swinburne, a day or two ago wrote in fiery indignation to a contemporary disclaiming all knowledge of the authorship of some lines entitled "Dolorida," which had appeared in a Christmas annual published under the name of "Waltungs and Wine." Mr. Swinburne desired it to be known that the "annual and the editor, the contributor and the contributor were alike unknown" to his high mightiness. The next day Mr. Augustus Moore, the editor of the annual in question, wrote to say that it was not his fault if Mr. Swinburne failed to recognise his own inimitable style. He had copied the lines out of a young lady's album in which they appeared written in Mr. A. G. Swinburne's "own unforgivable handwriting." The young lady in question was as proud of Mr. S.'s friend ship as he was of hers!

A PIUS PRACTICE.

If it be true that old George III. took such an interest in the welfare of those condemned to die upon the gallows as he is represented to have done in an anecdote which was at one time freely circulated, his time must have been pretty well occupied by devotional exercises. The anecdote in question, albeit highly honourable to his sense of publicity, is mentioned on the authority of Stevenson, the American envoy in London. Some extraordinary occurrence having called a French statesman to the palace, late at two o'clock in the morning, he found the king in his cabinet, examining the case of a prisoner condemned to execution. The envoy afterwards ascertained that the king kept a register recording the name of every person capitally condemned, the sentence, and its reasons. Frequently, in the still hours of the night, he practised the task of investigating those cases, and adds to the record the circumstances which had influenced his decision. The envoy probably did not know that the great and good George III. had pursued nearly the anti-slavery path five years before, with the evidence with the deepest anxiety, and generally shut himself up in his cabinet at Windsor (it was presumed, in prayer) during the hours appointed for the execution in London—*Old and New London.*

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